

We cannot ignore the fact that we have more coal in this country in Btus than the rest of the world has recoverable oil. Coal is an excellent energy source, and we should be supporting research that will ultimately provide us with zero emission coal-fired power plants.

International markets are an important component of our energy policy. As we look at the world energy situation, 2 billion people lack access to electricity. Current electric power capacity will have to triple over the next 50 years to meet this demand. The worldwide market for new power equipment is expected to be \$2 trillion per decade for at least the next 5 decades. China alone plans to construct eight to 10 power plants a year for the next 20 years, 75 percent of which will burn coal. This fact alone is the reason we must focus on continued research to develop the most energy-efficient, cleanest-burning coal technology possible.

Natural gas holds great promise in many energy sectors. First, its great abundance in the United States, as well as all of North America, together with its clean-burning attributes, make it a fuel of choice for future power generation in this country. In the fiscal year 2001 interior appropriations bills we have funded a major natural gas infrastructure program. Pipelines and refueling stations are necessary to improve access to clean, efficient domestically produced natural gas.

Our dependence on petroleum-based fuels, gasoline and diesel fuel, for our transportation sector is a more difficult situation to address. We must continue to support alternatives, including natural gas and electric vehicles.

We need to look at how we can make transportation fuels less polluting and how we can combine the use of these fuels with other cutting edge technologies and hybrid vehicles. Again, there is a focus on these efforts in the Interior appropriations bill for next year. The Interior appropriations bill has a strong focus on conservation of our energy and its end use.

While we are doing what we can to provide necessary funding for research to improve emissions and efficiency in our Nation's energy use through funding provided to the Department of Energy, we must examine other important components of our energy picture. Policies which cut off supplies and access are not for tomorrow.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join together to develop a truly comprehensive energy policy. Failure to do so will make today's crisis a permanent crisis.

WHY WE NEED TO ABOLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ensure that H.R. 1649, the act to abolish the Department of Energy, does not get pushed behind a copy machine like two highly classified secret hard disk drives were recently.

In 1995, I was the leader of the House task force that first introduced the Department of Energy Abolishment Act. Back then we highlighted four principal reasons why Congress needs to eliminate the Department of Energy. Listen to the same principles which still hold true:

Number one, the DOE no longer serves as a core energy-related mission. In fact, less than 20 percent of the current Department of Energy budget is dedicated to energy-related activities.

Number two, the Department of Energy is a failed cabinet level agency, unable to meet its most basic obligations.

Number three, the Department of Energy has developed into a feeding trough for corporate welfare recipients.

Number four, DOE wastes billions of taxpayer dollars annually.

These four principles still stand true today; and unfortunately, now we can add a fifth principle, a reason why Congress must abolish this agency. That reason is that the Department of Energy has become and continues to be a serious threat to the security of this Nation.

First it was Chinagate, and now we learn that highly classified and secret materials were missing for 2 months until recently discovered behind a copying machine.

The Department of Energy has become a threat to our national security. In 1998 the House of Representatives created a Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military and Commercial Concerns with China, also known as the Cox Committee. I have with me a copy of one of three volumes of the Cox report I am holding in my hand outlining problems within the Department of Energy.

The Cox Committee issued 38 recommendations in response to their conclusion that the security at the Department of Energy nuclear laboratories in Sandia, Los Alamos, and Lawrence Livermore do not meet even the minimal standards, and that China has stolen design information on our Nation's most advanced thermonuclear weapons.

Into the House Cox Committee, President Clinton appointed former Senator Warren Rudman, chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, to also evaluate security at the DOE labs. In my hand I have that report that was submitted by Senator Rudman. It has at the top "science at its best, security at its worst."

Some of the examples of the Department of Energy mismanagement as reported by the Rudman report is, one, a Department of Energy employee was dead for 11 months before the security officials realized that four classified documents were still assigned to him.

It also took 45 months to fix a broken doorknob that was stuck in an open position, allowing access to classified nuclear information. Department of Energy officials also took 35 months to write a work report to replace a lock at a weapons lab facility which contained classified information. Several months passed before the security audit team discovered that a main telephone frame door at a weapons lab had been forced open and the lock had been destroyed.

During this Congress, in separate reports, Congressman Cox and Senator Rudman have reached the same conclusion regarding the Department of Energy: the agency is incapable of reforming itself and has a culture of waste, fraud and abuse.

What does Secretary Richardson have to say about these problems? On March 9, 1999, Secretary Richardson said, "Security at the labs right now is good."

On March 14, 1999, Secretary Richardson said, "We have top notch security right now in our national labs." He also said on that day, "Our labs are very security conscious now." On March 16 he said, "Security is being tightened dramatically at the labs. This should not happen again."

What Bill Richardson said yesterday was, "What I did not take into account was that the lab culture needs more time to be changed. I did not take into account the human element," on Meet the Press on June 18, 2000.

I think this is the final straw, Mr. Speaker. On May 7, highly classified computer disks containing nuclear secrets were discovered missing from the Department of Energy lab in Los Alamos. Although the disappearance was discovered on May 7, it was not until 24 days later that the director of the lab was notified, along with the Department of Energy Secretary, Bill Richardson and the FBI. To date, no one has been fired or taken off the payroll.

While I recognize progress in the announcement this week by chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services of his intentions to introduce legislation to examine whether the nuclear weapons program should be turned over to the Department of Defense, what we do not need is another commission telling us what we already know.

The Department of Energy is a threat to our national security, and all defense-related functions currently housed within the Department of Energy should be transferred to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I believe it is time to turn out the lights at the Department of Energy by passing H.R. 1649.

DEMOCRATIC VS. REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr.